General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 179

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.13 and Add.1)*]

55/13. Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/283 of 5 September 2000 and resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, entitled "United Nations Millennium Declaration", in particular paragraphs 19, 20 and 28 thereof, as well as other relevant resolutions and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/36 of 28 July 1999, as well as Security Council resolution 1308 (2000) of 17 July 2000,

Recalling also the relevant provisions of the final document adopted at its twenty-first special session on 2 July 1999 on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1] the final document adopted at its twenty-third special session on 10 June 2000 on further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[2] and the final document adopted at its twenty-fourth special session on 1 July 2000 on further initiatives for social development,[3]

Taking note of the statement of thirteen women Ministers for Foreign Affairs concerning the worldwide threat of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), issued on 12 September 2000[4] and the Ouagadougou Declaration adopted at the fifth Pan-African Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which was held at Ouagadougou from 21 to 25 September 2000,[5]

1. *Decides* to convene, as a matter of urgency, a special session of the General Assembly, from 25 to 27 June 2001, to review and address the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in all its aspects, as well as to secure a global commitment to enhancing

[1] Resolution S-21/2, annex.
[2] Resolution S-23/3, annex.
[3] Resolution S-24/2, annex.
[4] A/55/394, annex.
[5] A/55/480, annex.

coordination and the intensification of national, regional and international efforts to combat it in a comprehensive manner;

2. *Confirms* that the special session will be open for participation to all States Members of the United Nations and observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, and urges Member States and observers to ensure their representation at the special session at the highest political level;

3. *Decides* to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

4. *Decides also* that the special session shall be composed of plenary meetings, as well as interactive round-table meetings, the organization, number and themes of which will be finalized during the preparatory process, to discuss, inter alia, issues such as HIV/AIDS in Africa, international funding and cooperation, the social and economic impact of the epidemic, human rights and AIDS, including reduction of the stigma related to AIDS, the gender-specific impacts of AIDS, especially on women and girls, HIV/AIDS prevention, including development of microbicides, improved access to care and treatment including drugs, protection and care of children affected by AIDS, in particular orphans, scientific research and vaccine development, expanded public/private sector partnerships and the building and strengthening of national capacities to combat HIV/AIDS, including the development of national action plans and their implementation, with each interactive meeting to be held in concurrence with a plenary meeting;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary administrative arrangements towards the convening of the special session;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make available all necessary documentation in a timely manner for the special session;

7. *Encourages* all entities of the United Nations system, including programmes, funds, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions, to be involved actively in the preparatory activities and to participate at the highest level in the special session, including through presentations on best practices and different experiences in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS, obstacles encountered and possible strategies for overcoming them, as well as further initiatives, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen national, regional and international efforts and cooperation, taking into account the different ways of addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS;

8. *Decides* to convene, within the framework of the preparatory process for the special session, open-ended informal consultations of the plenary, chaired by the President of the General Assembly, to undertake, as appropriate, preparations for the special session, including elaboration of a draft declaration of commitment and other relevant documents for consideration during the special session, to further address the modalities and other organizational matters of the special session, with a view to submitting proposals for final decision by the Assembly, and to organize other relevant activities to contribute to the preparations for the special session, and invites the President of the General Assembly to appoint, in consultation with Member States, two facilitators to assist in carrying out these consultations with the effective participation of all countries;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the support of the Joint United Nations Programme on the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), acting as the substantive secretariat of the special session, to provide substantive input to the preparatory process;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present, in a timely manner, in order to facilitate and focus the preparatory consultations, a comprehensive report describing both the status of the epidemic and the status and level of national, regional and international response and cooperation as well as other issues, including the developmental impact of the epidemic, its long-term social and economic manifestations, national achievements to date, best practices in prevention and care and identification of major gaps and challenges, taking into account all relevant information and inputs, including relevant findings from previous appropriate conferences;

11. *Encourages* regional bodies and organizations, as well as the regional commissions, to make available to the preparatory process and to the special session the outcomes of respective subregional, regional and global level initiatives addressing a range of HIV/AIDS issues;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of the contribution of civil society actors in the response to the epidemic at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need for the active involvement of civil society representatives in the preparatory process and the special session;

13. *Invites* to the special session and to the preparatory process activities, apart from the informal consultations of the General Assembly to which only Member States and observers are invited, in accordance with paragraph 14 below, non-governmental organizations which enjoy consultative status in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, or are members of the Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, requests the Executive Director of the Joint Programme to prepare, not later than 15 February 2001, for consideration by Member States, on a non-objection basis during the preparatory process, for final decision by the Assembly, a list of other relevant civil society actors, in particular associations of people living with HIV/AIDS, non-governmental organizations and the business sector, including pharmaceutical companies, along with relevant background information to be made available to Member States, and invites those civil society actors to the special session and to the preparatory process activities for the special session, according to the modalities defined above;

14. *Invites*, in this context, the President of the General Assembly to make recommendations, for consideration by Member States during the preparatory process, for final decision by the Assembly as soon as possible, but not later than 2 March 2001, as to the form of the involvement of such civil society actors, in particular associations of people living with HIV/AIDS, non-governmental organizations and the business sector, including pharmaceutical companies, in the special session and, to the extent possible, in the preparatory process;

15. *Stresses* the importance of the full and active participation of all States, including the least developed countries, in the preparatory consultations in order to provide substantive input to the special session, invites Governments to make appropriate voluntary contributions to a trust fund to be established by the

Secretary-General for that purpose, and requests the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure mobilization of resources to the fund;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure an effective and coordinated system-wide response to preparations for the special session and to carry out, particularly in the most affected countries, in cooperation with the Joint Programme, a comprehensive public information programme to raise global HIV/AIDS awareness while also building broad international support for the special session and its goals;

17. *Decides* that the provisions contained in paragraphs 8, 12, 13 and 14 above will in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations, international financial and trade institutions, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant civil society actors, as well as the business sector, including pharmaceutical companies;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects".

51st plenary meeting
3 November 2000